

Children, Youth, and Families

Activity Summary

August 2006 – February 2007

PUBLIC INTEREST

AN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORATE

Advancing psychology as . . . a means of promoting health, education and human welfare.

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PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	Public Interest Directorate	page	6
	Children, Youth, and Families Office		6
	Working Group on Psychotropic		
	Medications for Children and Adolescents		7
	Wingspread Conference Application		7
	Planning Committee		
	Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in		
	Black Children and Adolescents		8
	Task Force on Evidence-based Practice		
	with Children and Adolescents		8
	2007 Conference (Child Abuse & Neglect)		8
	2008 Conference (APA/ABA)		9
	Policy Statements		9
	Publications		10
	Report from Interdivisional Task Force on		11
	Children's Mental Health		
	Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns Office		13
	Women's Programs Office		13
	Adults and Children Together Against Violence		14
	Office on AIDS		15
Section 2	Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF)		18
	Call for Nominations for 2008		18
	CYF Federal Advocacy Priorities		19
	CYF 2005 Annual Report		22

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW

The Public Interest Directorate (PI) was established in 1987. PI supports and promotes APA members' efforts to apply the science and profession of psychology to the advancement of health, education and human welfare. The Directorate's issues are central to the science and profession of psychology and critical to consumers of psychological services and the general public.

The Directorate provides staff support for the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest; the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs; the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns; the Committee on Women in Psychology; the Committee on Psychology and the Public Interest Awards; the Board of Directors' ad hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS; the Committee on Aging; the Committee on Socioeconomic Status; and other groups as needed.

The Directorate is home to the Children, Youth, and Families Office that provides support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Wingspread Conference Application Planning Committee; the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents; the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents; and the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents.

In addition, the Directorate houses the ACT Against Violence Project funded in large part by foundation and government sources, the HOPE Program, and the Healthy Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students Project, which are federally funded.

The following is a summary of child, youth, and family focused activities from the various Public Interest program areas.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES OFFICE

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinates APA's public interest, health, human welfare, and social responsibility activities in the areas of children, youth, and families. The office serves as an information and referral resource and it develops and disseminates reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues to APA members, the public, and federal agencies. The office monitors the welfare of these groups as consumers of psychological services and promotes the development and application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues affecting them. For additional information, visit the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf>.

The office provides staff support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Wingspread Conference Application Planning Committee; the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents; and the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents.

The office liaisons with the following child, youth, and family related APA divisions: Division of Developmental Psychology (7); Division of School Psychology (16); Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services (37); Section on Child Maltreatment (Division 37, Section 1); Division of Clinical Neuropsychology (40); Division of Family Psychology (43); Division of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (53); and the Society of Pediatric Psychology (54). For information about these divisions and their child, youth, and family focused initiatives please visit the CYF website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/divisions.html>.

The Children, Youth, and Families Office staff include: Efua Andoh, CYF Administrative Coordinator; Mary Campbell, Director; and Keyona King-Tsikata, Special Projects Manager.

Interdirector Staff Working Group on Child and Adolescent Issues

This group meets periodically to share information on initiatives, to discuss issues of mutual concern, and to develop collaborative strategies for addressing those concerns. Representatives from the Education, Practice, Public Interest, and Science Directorates and the Public Policy Office participate in the meetings.

2004-2006 INITIATIVE

Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents The use of psychotropic medications for children and adolescents was brought to the Association's attention by the Council of Representatives Child and Family Caucus. Acting on the Caucus's recommendation, the APA Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives funded three meetings of the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents from March 27, 2004 – December 2005 from their Discretionary Funds.

Working group members were appointed by then APA President Diane Halpern, PhD. They were: Ronald T. Brown, PhD, ABPP, chair; David Antonuccio, PhD, ABPP; George J. DuPaul, PhD; Mary Fristad, PhD, ABPP; Cheryl Ann King, PhD, ABPP; Laurel Leslie, MD; William E. Pelham, Jr., PhD; John Piacentini, PhD, ABPP; and Benedetto Vitiello, MD. Laurel Leslie, MD, representing the American Academy of Pediatrics joined the working group in 2005.

The working group was charged with reviewing the literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge concerning the effective use, sequencing, and integration of psychotropic medications and psychosocial interventions for children and adolescents. This review included a comparative examination of the risk-benefit ratio of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and the range of child and adolescent psychopharmacology including the appropriateness of medication practices.

As noted in the executive summary, the working group reviewed the existing literature in peer-reviewed journals (included as part of MEDLINE and PsycINFO), as well as Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data concerning safety. For the psychological disorders most prevalent in children and adolescents, the various psychosocial, psychotropic, and combination treatments were reviewed, including the effect of each therapy, the strength of evidence of its efficacy, and the limitations and side effects of each treatment in the short- and long-term. An Efficacy Summary Table for treatments targeting each type of child psychopathology is included in each section.

The report includes information on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, Tourette and tic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorders, depression and suicidality, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia spectrum disorder, autism spectrum disorder, and elimination disorders. Information regarding specific psychosocial, psychopharmacological, and combined treatments for each disorder are included.

The document was reviewed externally and by APA boards and committees. Through early 2006 the working group members continued to revise the document based on comments provided. During their August 2006 meeting, the Council of Representatives adopted the report titled *Report of the APA Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents: Psychopharmacological, Psychosocial, and Combined Interventions for Childhood Disorders: Evidence Base, Contextual Factors, and Future Directions*. The Office of Member and Public Communications distributed the Report to the media, the Public Interest Public Policy Office distributed the Report to policy makers. The Children, Youth, and Families Office continues to distribute the report to relevant organizations, agencies, and to the public. The full report is available at this Web address <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/childmeds.pdf>. Hard copies are available by contacting Efua Andoh by email at eandoh@apa.org.

2006 NEW INITIATIVES

Wingspread Conference Application (WCA) Planning Committee – The Inter-divisional Task Force on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IDTFCAMH) established the development of a national summit or conference on increasing the awareness of and investment in the mental health of children as a priority. Under the leadership of Barry Anton, PhD; and Karen Saywitz, PhD; IDTFCAMH co-chairs, the group requested and received 2006 Board of Directors Discretionary Funds to support one planning group meeting in 2006. Members of the Wingspread Conference Application Working Group (WCA) were appointed by APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, and included Barry Anton, PhD, ABPP, Co-Chair; Carol Falender, PhD; Larke Huang, PhD; Mareasa Isaacs, PhD; Mary Ann McCabe, PhD; Karen Saywitz, PhD, Co-Chair; Patrick Tolan, PhD; and Donald Wertlieb, PhD. The Board of Directors charged the group with determining the focus and scope of an interdisciplinary summit to develop a national media and advocacy campaign to increase awareness about and investment in the mental health of children and families.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The group met in June 2006, and began developing the proposal for submission to the Wingspread Conference Center. The topic of the conference would be a National Media and Advocacy Campaign to Increase Awareness About and Investment in the Mental Health of Children and Families. The WCA determined the structure of the conference, identified potential participants, discussed strategies for engaging other professional groups and partners; and formulated a preliminary plan for possible products based on information resulting from the conference. The group also developed a budget and funding proposal for The Johnson Foundation. The WCA has received preliminary feedback from the Wingspread staff and is revising the proposal. For additional information, contact Keyona King-Tsikata by email at kking-tsikata@apa.org.

Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents (RSBCA) – At its February 2006 meeting, the Board of Directors allocated 2006 discretionary funds to support one meeting in 2006 of the RSBCA. The task force was charged with the identification of factors that contribute to the healthy development of Black children and adolescents in three contexts: families, schools, and peer groups. Focus on disparity data in terms of income, female-headed households, academic achievement and criminal justice system involvement fails to inform about attitudes and behaviors that contribute to Black children and adolescents being resilient and strong. The compilation of relevant research data as well as the identification of successful academic programming will provide another lens with which to view these individuals. Such information can inform policy and programming in communities where African Americans reside. The following persons were appointed by APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, to serve on the task force: Stephanie Coard, PhD, Chair; Michele Cooley, PhD; Anne Gregory, PhD; Yolanda Jackson, PhD; Robert Jagers, PhD; Caryn Rodgers, PhD; Robert Sellers, PhD; and Anita Thomas, PhD. There were also two Senior Advisors appointed to the group: Faye Belgrave, PhD, and Margaret Beale Spencer, PhD. The RSBCA met on October 27-29 at the APA offices in Washington, DC and identified issues, developed a product outline, assigned writing tasks, and established deadlines. For additional information, contact Keyona King-Tsikata by email at kking-tsikata@apa.org.

Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents (EBPCA) - During the April 2006 consolidated meetings the Board of Directors met and allocated funding from their 2006 discretionary funds for two meetings of the Working Group on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents. The task force was charged with reviewing the extant literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge concerning evidence-based psychological practice with children and adolescents. This would include empirically supported principles and evidence applied to psychological assessment, case formulation, possible mediating variables such as therapeutic relationship, and intervention with children and adolescents (and often their caregivers). Also included would be the acknowledgement of the variety of settings in which services are provided to children, including schools, clinics, hospitals, independent practices, and homes and the need to consider setting characteristics when implementing evidence-based practice. In addition, developmental and cultural characteristics that influence the applicability, acceptance, and efficacy of evidence-based practice would be addressed. The task force was encouraged to consider implications of its findings for future research agendas and for the education and training of psychologists with specificity to evidence-based practice with children and adolescents. The following persons were appointed by APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD to serve on the Task Force: Anne Kazak, PhD, Chair; Gerard Banez, PhD; Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD; Korey Hood, PhD; Thomas Kratochwill, PhD; Luis Vargas, PhD; and John Weisz, PhD. Due to scheduling conflicts, the task force was able to schedule only one meeting, November 9-11, 2006. The task force identified issues, developed a product outline, assigned writing tasks, and established deadlines. For additional information, contact Keyona King-Tsikata by email at kking-tsikata@apa.org.

2007 Conference

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect The APA is a national cosponsor of the Children's Bureau/Office on Child Abuse and Neglect's Sixteenth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and participates in planning and implementing the conference. The 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in Portland, Oregon, April 16-21, 2007. The conference theme is *Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Strong Communities*. This national conference is devoted to issues of child abuse and neglect and brings together more than 2,000 practitioners, policy-makers, community organizers and researchers for a week of plenary, workshop and skill-building sessions. For additional information, visit the website at <http://www.pal-tech.com/cbconference> or contact conference organizers at 16conf@pal-tech.com.

2008 Conference

APA/ABA National Conference on Child Custody and Divorce An APA/ABA Child Custody Steering Committee was established to develop goals, recommendations, and implementation strategies for APA/ABA collaboration in divorce, child custody, and related areas of mutual interest and concern. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in December 2005 and one of the collaborative initiatives identified is co-sponsorship of an APA/ABA National Conference on Child Custody and Divorce in April 2008. The Steering Committee will be issuing status reports as well as soliciting input from various APA governance entities – particularly relevant APA Divisions – as the Committee continues to identify issues of interest and develop recommendations for collaborative projects. For additional information, contact Donna Beavers, Director, Psychology/Law Coordination, by email at dbeavers@apa.org.

APA Policy Statements on Children, Youth, and Families

APA's Council of Representatives, the Association's highest policy-making body, has adopted resolutions on the following child, youth, and family issues:

- Mental Health of Children*
- Child Development*
- Corporal Punishment*
- Child Custody*
- International Year of the Child*
- Psychological Abuse of Children and Youth*
- Committee on Children, Youth, and Families*
- Prevention of Motor Vehicle Trauma and its Psychological and Physical Sequelae*
- Resolution on Violence Against Children by Governments*
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- Psychological Issues Related to Child Abuse and Neglect*
- The Use of Anatomically Detailed Dolls in Forensic Evaluations*
- Resolution on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youths in the Schools*
- Proclamation in Support of the United Nations International Year of the Family, 1994*
- Policy Statement of the American Psychological Association on Psychology and Service Integration
- Firearm Safety and Youth*
- Violence in Mass Media*
- Resolution on the Psychological Needs of Children Exposed to Disasters*
- Resolution on Cigarette Smoking
- APA Resolution on Dropout Prevention
- Resolution on Sexuality Education
- Policy Statement on Social Practices that Induce Violence
- APA Resolution on Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families*
- APA Resolution Opposing Child Sexual Abuse*
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Optional Protocols
- APA Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities*

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- APA Resolution on Bullying Among Children and Youth*
- APA Resolution on Children's Mental Health*
- Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media*
- Task Force on Advertising and Children Recommendations*

*Text is available on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/cyfresm.html>. Printed copies are available by contacting, Efua Andoh, CYF Administrative Coordinator, by email at eandoh@apa.org.

Children, Youth, and Families Office Publications

Children, Youth, and Families Activity Summary. Provides a summary of Public Interest activities focusing on children, youth, and families. Updated annually. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/activitysummary207.pdf>

Annual Report of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Provides a summary of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families' yearly activities and accomplishments. Updated annually. http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf_annual_report_2005.pdf

APA Policy Statements on Children, Youth, and Families. Provides text and references for APA public policy statements on children, youth, and families. Updated online as new statements are adopted. Copies of the resolutions are available at this web address <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/cyfresm.html>

A New Look at Adolescent Girls: Strengths and Stresses Research Agenda. This booklet was excerpted from *Beyond Appearances: A New Look at Adolescent Girls* published by APA Books. It provides an overview of research questions focused on the strengths, challenges, and choices with the contexts of girls' lives. 28 pages. 1999. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/adolesgirls.html>

Protecting Our Children from Abuse and Neglect. This public education pamphlet was written for parents, teachers, relatives, and those who care for children. It provides information on causes of child abuse and neglect, how to recognize and prevent child abuse and neglect, and what may happen to abused and neglected children. 18 pages. 1997. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/abuse.html>

APA Talking Points on Children's Mental Health. These materials were developed to address policy concerns identified by the APA Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. They address policy implications of a broad range of children's mental health needs and issues. 5 pages. 2005. <http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/ftalkingpoints.html>

APA Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. This report presents the implementation plan to organize and focus APA's resources to further policies, research, training, and practice as identified in the report of the APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health: *APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health*. 21 pages. 2004. http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/child_adoles_mentalhealth_report.pdf

APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health: APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health. This report puts forward findings and recommendations important in efforts to address the crisis in children's mental health as identified in the *Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health: A National Action Agenda*. References are included. 39 pages. 2001. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/dpnacmh.pdf>

Addressing Missed Opportunities for Early Childhood Mental Health Interventions: Current Knowledge and Policy Implications. This report focuses on the current knowledge and gaps in understanding that must guide the needed policy directions to improve mental health service delivery in early childhood. 48 pages. 2004. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/emhireport.pdf>

Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals. This booklet provides information on normative adolescent physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral development. References are included. 41 pages. 2002. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/develop.pdf>

Tips for Talking with Adolescents. This bookmark, excerpted from *Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals*, provides tips for talking with adolescents. 2004. Available in English http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/tips_for_talking_with_adolescents.pdf

and Spanish (**Como Hablar con los Adolescentes**.) http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/tips_for_talking_with_adolescents_spanish.pdf

Yes...It's Normal for Adolescents to...This bookmark, excerpted from *Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals*, provides a quick reference on normal adolescent development. 2004. Available in English http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/yes_its_normal_for_adolescents_to.pdf

and Spanish (**Si...Es normal que los Adolescentes...**) http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/yes_its_normal_for_adolescents_to_spanish.pdf

Love Doesn't Have to Hurt Teens. This poster-style brochure on teen dating violence provides information and resources for victims, aggressors, and friends. It includes discussion of issues particular to disabled youth, same-sex relationships, and cultural beliefs. 1997 <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/teen.pdf>

Report of the APA Task Force on Advertising and Children. This report provides information on the psychological issues in the increasing commercialization of childhood and the psychological implications of commercialism in schools. Contains recommendations for public policy, research, applied psychology, industry practices, media literacy, and advertising and schools. 68 pages. 2004. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/advertisingandchildren.pdf>

An Annotated Bibliography on the Implications of Interactive Media for Adolescents. This bibliography provides a comprehensive list of references on the implications of interactive media for adolescents. 71 pages. 2002. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/interactivemedia.pdf>

Report of the APA Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents. This report provides a thorough review of the existing literature and reports on the current state of knowledge concerning the effective use, sequencing, and integration of psychotropic medications and psychosocial interventions for children and adolescents. 246 pages. 2006

A free copy of most material is available by contacting publicinterest@apa.org.

Report from the Interdivisional Task Force on Child & Adolescent Mental Health

Submitted by Karen J. Saywitz, Chair
August 30, 2006

Award for Distinguished Contributions for the Education and Training of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Psychologists Announced at APA Convention:

The Interdivisional Task Force on Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the Board of Educational Affairs created a biennial award to recognize training programs that prepare future psychologists to promote the optimal development of child and adolescent mental health within the context of families, schools, or communities. The *University of Kansas Clinical Child Program* was the first recipient. Honorable mention went to *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Psychology Internship Program*.

National Summit on Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Policy:

A request for funding was developed entitled, National Media and Advocacy Campaign to *Increase Awareness About and Investment in the Mental Health of Children and Families*. It was submitted to APA Board of Directors in Spring 2006. Due to the enthusiastic support of Gerald Koocher, APA President, the Wingspread Conference Application Work Group was funded and met in June, 2006. Members drafted a proposal to the Johnson Foundation for a Wingspread Conference at their facility in Racine, WI in 2007. The draft proposal was submitted for review and comment in July 2006.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Child Mental Health Website:

Interdivisional grant proposal to CODAPAR titled, *Developing a Consumer Website for Child and Adolescent Mental Health* was funded to finance a meeting in Washington, DC for the project coordinator, Linda Reddy, APA staff, a website designer, and an advisory board from the DC area. Members of a Scientific Review Panel, Advocacy Board, and a Consumer Advisory Board have been selected and have begun their work through email and conference calls. A nascent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Website intended for use by psychologists is now operational through the Public Interest Directorate PPO Website.

APA 2006 Convention Symposia Sponsored by Task Force:

- 1-*Prevention for Child Mental Health: Scientific Promise to Practical Benefit*
- 2-*National Media and Advocacy Campaign Strategies in Children's Mental Health,*
- 3-*Issues in the Dissemination of Empirically-Supported Interventions for Children and Adolescents.*

Publications:

A special issue of *Child and Family Policy and Practice Review* on the prevention of mental health problems in children and adolescents will be sponsored by the task force in 2007. A special package of articles on child and adolescent mental health for *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* is being developed under the leadership of Michael Roberts, Nadine Kaslow, and Patrick Tolan. They are looking for potential editors and authors.

Four Divisions Invited to Join Task Force:

Invitations were issued to the Divisions of Health Psychology (38), Clinical Neuropsychology (40), Rehabilitation (22), and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (33). So far Divisions 38 and 40 have shown an enthusiastic response.

Talking Points on CMH Dissemination:

The committee on public awareness chair, Anne Culp, is working on distributing talking points to members of participating Divisions via e-mail with cover letter encouraging local advocacy efforts.

Newsletter Articles Published:

An article entitled, *Crisis in Child Mental Health Care: A well-kept secret* has been published in approximately 30 newsletters of APA Divisions and State Psychological Associations (e.g., South Carolina, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Iowa, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, Florida, Arizona, Rhode Island, Missouri, Montana). A revision of the article is underway for publication in newsletters of organizations outside of APA, including Society of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Society for Research in Child Development, National Council on Family Relations, and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Keeping Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health at the forefront of APA Agenda:

The task force has been actively involved in appointing representatives with child, adolescent and family expertise to several APA cross-directorate working groups. The task force was involved in the nominations for the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents and selected two members with child and adolescent expertise to be added to the BEA/CAPP Task Force to Review Psychopharmacology Curricula and Related Policies, Dr. Ronald Brown and Dr. Tom Kubiszyn.

Interdivisional Task Force Participants:

Steering Committee: Karen Saywitz, PhD, Chair, Division 37; Nadine Kaslow, PhD, Division 12; William Pelham, PhD, Division 53; Laura Nabors, PhD, Division 54; Cindy Carlson, PhD, Division 43; Patrick Tolan, PhD, Division 27; Kathy Katz, PhD, Division 7; Linda Reddy, PhD, Division 16; and Barry Anton PhD.

Task Force Members: Michael Roberts, PhD; Marsali Hansen, PhD; Carol Falender, PhD; Mary Haskett, PhD; Anne Culp, PhD; Dennis Drotar, PhD; Jeffrey Haugaard, PhD; Barbara Ward-Zimmerman, PhD; Doug Tynan, PhD; Linda Knauss, PhD; Kay Hodges, PhD; Kathleen Baggett, PhD; Erica Ruegg, PhD; Kristin Lee, PhD; Wayne Holden, PhD; Mitchell Prinstien, PhD; Bonnie Nastasi, PhD; Larke Huang, PhD; Patrick Tolan, PhD; and Donald Wertlieb, PhD.

With great appreciation to APA Staff: Mary Campbell, Annie Toro, Eua Andoh, Keyona King-Tsikata, Karen Studwell, and Ron Palomares.

LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL CONCERNS OFFICE

Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project

The Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP) continues its work to strengthen the capacity of the nation's schools and youth-serving organizations to prevent health risks and promote healthy outcomes among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. The project, which has been funded since its inception by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), began its seventh year of operation in May 2005. Since then, HLGBSP has provided its full-day training workshop, *Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers*, to state and local education agencies in Delaware, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and San Diego. The project has also provided its workshop at the annual conferences of the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA), the American Counseling Association (ACA), the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), and at a special meeting hosted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). To date, HLGBSP has provided 37 trainings at the national, regional, and state levels, reaching a combined audience of 1,056 school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. Together, these professionals are responsible for providing health and mental health services to an estimated 826,000 middle- and high-school students.

In May 2006, APA was awarded a 5-year, \$1.6 million cooperative agreement from the CDC to continue the work of the HLGBSP. Over the next five years, the project will continue providing capacity building assistance for HIV prevention to educational agencies and other community-based youth-serving organizations that work with lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning youth. In addition to providing its one-day professional development workshop, HLGBSP will work with existing programs in APA's Office on AIDS to link community-based and nonprofit organizations with behavioral and social science experts to improve the quality and effectiveness of those organizations' HIV-prevention programming for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth.

To learn more about HLGBSP's mission, history, and future plans, please visit the website at www.apa.org/ed/hlgb.

Lesbian and Gay Parenting

The publication is provided for the use of clinicians, researchers, students, lawyers, and parents involved in legal and policy issues related to lesbian and gay parenting. *Lesbian and Gay Parenting* is the successor to *Lesbian and Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists* (1995) and is a collaborative project of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns; the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; and the Committee on Women in Psychology.

It is divided into three parts. Part I is a summary of research findings on lesbian mothers, gay fathers, and their children written by Charlotte J. Patterson, PhD. Part II is an annotated bibliography of the literature cited in the summary. Part III provides some additional resources relevant to lesbian and gay parenting in the forensic context: APA amicus briefs, professional association policies, and contact information for relevant organizations.

Lesbian and Gay Parenting is available in **PDF** format (88 pages/912KB) at this web address <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbcp/publications/lgparenthome.html>. Contact the Public Interest Directorate at publicinterest@apa.org to request a free print copy.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS OFFICE

The Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls

The Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls met February 10-12 and June 22-23. Their report summarizes the evidence for the sexualization of girls across various products and media; cultural, interpersonal, and intrapsychic contributions; mechanisms by which sexualization has an impact; and consequences for girls and society in general. The report also outlines positive alternatives and approaches and proposes recommendations for research, practice, education and training, policy, and raising public awareness. The following persons were appointed by the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) to serve on the Task Force: Eileen L. Zurbriggen, PhD, Chair; Sharon Lamb, EdD; Tomi-Ann Roberts,

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

PhD; Deborah L. Tolman, EdD; L. Monique Ward, PhD; Rebecca L. Collins, PhD; and Jeanne Blake (public member). Task Force members are currently revising their report and recommendations based on comments from outside expert reviewers. CYF was among several committees and boards who appointed a representative to review the report at this early stage. The revised report will be submitted to boards and committees for formal review in the Fall, then to Board of Directors in December, and finally to Council in February 2007 for adoption. For additional information, contact Leslie Cameron by email at lcameron@apa.org.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Adults and Children Together Against Violence (ACT)

ACT is a national anti-violence project developed by the APA Public Interest Directorate and the APA Member and Public Communications Office to disseminate research-based knowledge and skills on early violence prevention to adults. A collaborative project of the APA and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), *ACT Against Violence* focuses on primary prevention by disseminating information to parents and caregivers of children 0 to 8 years of age. *ACT Against Violence* is designed to raise awareness and educate the key adults that, as the most influential people in children's lives, they can take action both to protect children from becoming involved with violence and to strengthen their families, schools, and communities.

ACT Against Violence addresses early violence prevention through: (1) a national multi-media campaign that includes TV and radio Public Service Announcements (PSA), print ads, billboards, a toll-free number, a web site; and (2) training programs to prepare professionals at national and local workshops to disseminate the ACT program messages and materials on early violence prevention programs to adults in their communities.

ACT Media Campaign

Developed in collaboration with the Advertising Council, Inc., and launched in April 2001, the ACT Media Campaign has reached millions of adults around the country through TV and radio ads and through posters and billboards with early violence prevention messages. Media tracking reports show that so far the television PSA was shown more than 60,000 times and reached more than 55 million households. The PSAs for radio were aired over 170,000 times; 7000 billboards were distributed nationwide. Networks and local stations, as a public service, donate the broadcast advertising time, which is estimated at a value of more than \$67 million if purchased at the usual rate. The second radio PSA was launched in July 2003; the third radio ad was launched nationwide along with new print ads and a billboard in 2005.

The Web site -- www.ActAgainstViolence.org -- has had more than 12 million hits and more than 800,000 unique visitors. In addition, thousands of ACT brochures have been distributed in response to calls to the 1-877-ACTWISE number, to participants in the training programs and upon request to APA members and the general public.

ACT Training Program

The ACT Training Program is a train-the-trainer model designed to prepare psychologists and other professionals working with children and families to disseminate early violence prevention skills and information to adults in their communities through a wide array of community organizations.

Since its inception in December 2000, the ACT Training Program has been successfully implemented through national workshops organized by APA and NAEYC and through local sites all over the country. So far, four national workshops have been held in Washington, DC; 100 professionals have been trained and have convened local agencies, workshops and presentations across the country to train more than 1,000 other professionals in the communities, who have in turn reached out to more than 20,000 adults. In addition, coalitions on early childhood violence prevention were established as a result of ACT training workshops.

Accomplishments also include establishing the ACT listserv, an online literature database, and a system to track ACT-trained professionals ACT-related activities.

Training Program Evaluation

Through a contract with the CDC Division of Violence Prevention, the Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation conducted the evaluation of the ACT Training Program. The study examined the

effectiveness of the ACT program in disseminating knowledge and skills to adults and interviewed professionals trained 6 months after their training. The pilot test was conducted in the fall of 2002; phone interviews and focus groups were conducted throughout 2003; and the final report was released in November 2004. Major findings indicate that most of the ACT-trained professionals (91%) have conducted activities to disseminate the program; more adults in the communities are receiving ACT messages and materials on early violence prevention; more communities and workplaces are involved in early prevention; and there are some long-term effects as professionals and other adults report changes in their behaviors and attitudes towards children. The findings indicate that the program is achieving its goals of making early violence prevention visible in the communities and to educate adults about violence prevention.

For additional information, contact ACT Program Director, Julia Silva at jsilva@apa.org or at (202) 336-5817. Visit the ACT- Adults and Children Together- Against Violence website at www.ActAgainstViolence.org

OFFICE ON AIDS

HOPE Training Program

The APA's Office on AIDS has been training mental health service providers about HIV/AIDS for over twelve years. The office administers a federally funded HIV/AIDS mental health provider training initiative called the HOPE Program. The program features a nationwide faculty of over 220 project-trained Regional Psychologist Trainers who deliver HIV-related mental health training based on the HOPE Training Resource Package. The Training Resource Package contains 9 modules encompassing the most-often requested areas for HIV/mental health-related professional development. HOPE Trainers individually tailor their workshops to meet requirements for in-service and continuing education credit.

Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program, through the APA Office on AIDS has conducted a workshop entitled, *Psychology, HIV, and Pediatrics*. In 2001, the HOPE Program, responding to not only changes in the epidemic, but the stated needs of HOPE Trainers, developed a "families-centered" module for the Training Resource Package. This new module, *HIV & Families* addresses the new reality of HIV as it effects families, and acquaints psychologists with the issues that confront children and adolescents infected and affected by HIV, as well as their families and support networks. This training module highlights the epidemiology of HIV among children and adolescents; outlines and discuss relevant issues including disclosure, multiple loss, permanency planning, school issues, bereavement and grieving, transitions, and psychological interventions as well as providing the participant experience identifying and using skills needed to work in this specialty area.

For additional information, please contact Christopher Rowe, HOPE Training Officer at 202-216-7603 (voice), crowe@apa.org or visit their web site at <http://www.apa.org/pi/aids/>

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) was established by a vote of Council in August 1985 to ensure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized." The Committee consists of six members and reports to the Council of Representatives through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). The 2006 CYF Annual Report provides information on CYF's goals and a summary of activities as they relate to the Committee's goals. Committee members for 2007 are Lonnie Sherrod, PhD, Chair; Mario Hernandez, PhD; Karen Budd, PhD; Barbara Fiese, PhD; Scott Nolen, PhD; and John Hagen, PhD.

2005-2006 INITIATIVE

Enhancing Family – School Relationships Conference - During their March 2005 meeting, the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) discussed the current educational climate that calls for increased accountability for schools and expands parents' educational choices for their children's education. With this has come an added emphasis on collaborations between families and schools and family school partnerships. The committee noted that many parents who want to be involved in their children's education lack the appropriate skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for their children and assist in their educational advancement. Moreover, teachers are often not prepared and lack sufficient time to effectively engage parents (especially "hard to reach" parents). CYF brought this issue to the attention of the American Psychological Association (APA) by proposing that a multidisciplinary conference be convened to present empirical research findings on the relationship between family involvement in schools and children's educational outcomes, and on factors that promote or inhibit the development of family and school relationships for families, schools and teachers.

With conference planning in mind, CYF in collaboration with the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest requested that the Association's Board of Directors allocate funds to support a meeting to plan such a conference. The Board considered this request during their June 2005 meeting and allocated funds from their 2005 discretionary fund to support the planning committee's meeting. The planning meeting was held in Washington, DC, on November 16-17 under the leadership of Nancy E. Hill, PhD, CYF 2006 chair. The planning committee refined the goals and objectives of the conference; reviewed and finalized themes and topics; defined the daily meeting structure; identified speakers; and addressed logistical issues. The conference focused on the middle and high school years and was held during July 20-21, 2006 at Duke University, which cosponsored the conference. In addition to Dr. Hill, members of the planning committee are Ruth K. Chao, PhD; Holly Kreider, EdD; Raymond P. Lorion, PhD; Jelani Mandara, PhD; and Ena Vazquez-Nuttall, EdD. The conference presentations are available in video and PDF format at this web address:

<http://www.pubpol.duke.edu/centers/child/calendar/Conferences/familyschoolconference/>

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families Call for Nominations for Terms Beginning in 2008

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) is anticipating two vacancies in 2008. CYF welcomes nominations from individuals interested in linking research and policy for children and families within APA and the profession. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates with substantial expertise and demonstrated experience in applying psychological knowledge to the well being and optimal development of children, youth, and families; and in issues advancing psychology as a science and profession in the area of promoting health and human welfare. Candidates are sought who have particular expertise in contemporary issues facing children, youth, and families in the context of their socioemotional and cognitive development and mental health. Candidates who have particular interest in culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, underserved and diverse populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Members are expected to participate in a targeted project directly related to CYF's work and mission and to APA as a whole. The project is to be completed during their three-year term on the Committee. Some examples of projects previously implemented by the Committee include immigrant children, youth, and families; school drop-out prevention; sexuality education; social practices that induce violence; psychological implications of disasters; early mental health interventions; violence against children in the family and community; training psychologists to work in the public sector; cultural competence; day care; testing; the mental health needs of children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system, bullying and violence in videogames and interactive media. Areas of interest to the Committee at present include rural children's mental health, mental health disparities, and cultural

diversity. Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the CYF website (<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/ccyf>) to learn more about CYF's mission and prior initiatives.

The Committee places a priority on maintaining representation within the Committee's membership that reflects the diversity of psychology and society (e.g., ethnicity, culture, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, and those who are employed less than full time). The candidates selected to serve on the Committee will serve for three years and will be required to attend two Committee meetings a year in Washington, DC, with expenses reimbursed by APA, and to participate in conference calls. The successful candidate is expected to attend, if possible, the informal CYF meeting held during the APA convention at the member's own expense. In addition, members are expected to work on projects and Committee business between meetings.

Each candidate is asked to submit:

- (1) a letter indicating his/her willingness to serve;
- (2) a brief statement describing the applicants expertise and interest in one or two contemporary issues facing children, adolescents and families that they would bring to the Committee; and
- (3) a current curriculum vita.

Nomination material including a letter from the candidate indicating a willingness to serve, issues statement, and a current CV must be received by **Monday, August 27, 2007**. Nomination material received after August 27 will be held for consideration the following year. Although it is not required, candidates are encouraged to have letters (not more than three) supporting their nomination submitted to the Committee. Material may be sent to CYF Nominations, c/o Edua Andoh, CYF Administrative Coordinator, Public Interest Directorate, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20002-4242, by email eandoh@apa.org or fax (202) 336-6040.

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
Federal Advocacy Priorities
September 30, 2006

Preamble

The listing of legislative priorities of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) that follows reflects the current policy concerns of the committee. This listing is updated regularly. The committee is fully aware that the Congressional agenda and calendar, as well as other external events typically dictate the opportunities available to the staff of APA's Public Policy Office (PPO). Thus, the policy initiatives pursued by the PPO will be constrained by these factors and will not necessarily reflect the priorities listed below. The Committee charges PPO with taking advantage of advocacy and legislative opportunities as they arise.

In general, certain principles can assist the work of the PPO with respect to child, youth, and family policy issues. The committee agrees that the following principles should be used as a guide when considering any such policy initiatives:

Whenever possible, the policy approaches advocated should be proactive rather than reactive. APA has the capacity to educate policy makers on innovative policy issues and should strive to assist Congress in addressing policy matters before they reach a crisis stage. In addition to a proactive approach to policy issues, APA assumes that advocacy priorities are best implemented in a holistic context. This context views policies and practices affecting children and families in an integrated manner where all the priorities work synergistically within communities rather than in isolation of each other.

In this manner, advocacy should focus whenever possible on promoting a comprehensive array of services and supports that are organized within communities into coordinated networks to meet the needs and strengths of children, adolescents, and their families.

APA's input in child, youth, and family policy discussions should be strongly based in the science of psychology. The Association's unique standing in the policy arena is psychology's body of empirical research and theory. Contributions that are evidence-based and rooted in the science of psychology are crucial to establishing and maintaining APA's credibility with policy makers.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

It is particularly important that APA bring the developmental perspective to bear on legislation affecting children and youth. Juvenile justice policies, childcare policies, and welfare reform policies are often formulated with little thought to the developmental issues that will likely affect the success or failure of those policies. APA is uniquely situated to address important developmental considerations as policies are formed.

APA should devote special effort to devise policy approaches that promote healthy development among children and youth. Most policy initiatives for children, youth, and families are problem-focused. An expanding body of research attests to the value of an array of intervention/prevention models that develop and build upon strengths and foster psychosocial competence and health. APA should work to assure that this perspective is represented in policy making whenever possible.

The priorities below are comprehensive and are intended to cover all aspects of policy. These aspects include: infrastructure (policy, financing, etc.), direct services (availability, types, quality, etc.), training (in service, pre service) and evaluation (basic, policy relevant, policy analysis, etc.), research and public information (stigma, media, dissemination of research, etc.).

Mental Health

1. Advocate for federal policies that implement a primary mental health care system for children that integrate evidence-based, high quality, promotion, prevention, and treatment services in collaboration with other child treatment services
2. Advocate for federal support for a continuum of mental health services for children and adolescents in need.
3. Advocate for federal support for research and optimal methods of effective dissemination, replication and implementation of child and adolescent evidence-based prevention and treatment programs.
4. Advocate for the promotion of comprehensive school mental health services for students of all ages and their families that are based on the best available science and that incorporate the services of school-employed providers and other providers who work in school sites.
5. Advocate for federal policies to promote adolescents' access to confidential and sensitive health, mental health, and reproductive health services.
6. Advocate for federal support for child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment, and research, and for increased involvement of psychologists and behavioral science in these areas.
7. Advocate for federal support for research on the prevention, intervention and treatment of the sexual exploitation of children and for increased involvement of psychologists and the behavioral science in this area.
8. Advocate for research and dissemination of programs to prevent substance use and or mental health problems and promote positive mental health of children and youth.
9. Advocate for dissemination of crisis intervention policies and procedures related to community disasters and trauma.
10. Advocate for federal support for suicide prevention research.
11. Advocate for the appropriate inclusion of children and youth in clinical trials to validate the use of therapeutic interventions and for trials to validate the validity of interventions across culture and gender.
12. Advocate for research on safe and effective use of psychotropic medications with children and adolescents.
13. Advocate for federal funding for research and support services for children and youth in the criminal justice system including rehabilitation services, prevention efforts, and a continuum of mental health services.

Physical Health

1. Advocate for health insurance for uninsured and underinsured children and youth including those in the juvenile justice system.
2. Advocate for the dissemination of empirically supported, developmentally appropriate interventions to service networks and providers for whom they are relevant.
3. Advocate for policies that monitor and lead to a reduction in negative environmental effects on children and youth's healthy growth and development.
4. Promote federal policies and regulations that serve to reduce children's exposure to and involvement in violence, whether through the media, in schools, in the community, or at home.
5. Advocate for children and adolescents' access to appropriate and comprehensive health and sexuality education.
6. Advocate for federal funding and support for research on the normative development of sexual behavior in youth in order to guide programs that aim to impact sexual behavior.

Education

1. Advocate for programs and policies that promote the optimal development of the whole child--cognitive and socio-emotional development, physical and mental health--in all contexts affecting children and youth--preschool, school, and communities.
2. Advocate for programs and policies that promote the positive development of all children and youth, that increase the likelihood that they will live up to their full potential in order to prevent talent loss and increase human capital.
3. Advocate for federal support for full educational opportunities for all children and adolescents leading to literacy and self-support skills (meaning the ability to earn a living).
4. Advocate for federal policies to enhance the contributions of electronic and other media to the positive social, emotional, and cognitive development of children and youth.

Diversity

1. Advocate for federal funding and support for research on normative development of minority children, youth, and families
2. Advocate for federal funding and support to train psychologists to work with children, youth, and families with particular attention to children, youth, and families of color, including those who are linguistically diverse, poor and those in rural areas.
3. Advocate for support of research-based policies that promote the healthy development of children in all families (including married, unmarried, single parent, lesbian, gay, and grandparent headed households).
4. Advocate for preserving and protecting rights of and services to immigrant, migrant, and refugee children and youth and for research funding and programs to address issues of this population as new immigrants to this country.
5. Advocate for programs and policies that promote the development of tolerance in children and youth of individual differences across social economic class, race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and disability status.
6. Advocate for federal funds and policies to support research and programs addressing prevention efforts for adolescent sexual behavior risk for HIV, STDs and pregnancy.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Family Support

1. Advocate for federal policies to promote maternal and child health and mental health with particular attention to the development of children in impoverished families and the impact of welfare reform on families.
2. Advocate for federal funding for research and support services for children and families in the child welfare system.
3. Advocate for policies that guarantee the high quality care of all children in and out of the home, that allow and promote parental leave, and that support families in multiple ways in order to promote positive development.
4. Advocate for federal policies to promote positive, involved and consistent parenting practices and positive family development.
5. Advocate for strengthening programs that support and empower families with young children, particularly infants and toddlers such as Early Head Start, Head Start, Healthy Start, and childcare initiatives.

Children's Rights and Civic Engagement

1. Advocate for programs and policies that would promote the civic development of children and youth so that they can appreciate, understand, and take advantage of their rights as developing citizens.
2. Advocate for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other policies to promote the rights of children and youth.

The Committee further recommends that priority be given to a specific legislative initiatives as appropriate to include Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Head Start, Family Opportunity Act, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Keeping Families Together Act, Child Health Care Crisis Relief Act, Higher Education Act, No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Child Welfare particularly in regard to family preservation, and adoption and termination of parental rights.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) was established by a vote of Council in August 1985 to ensure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association...in order that all human resources are actualized." The Committee consists of six members and reports to the Council of Representatives through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). The 2006 CYF Annual Report provides information on CYF's goals and a summary of activities as they relate to the Committee's goals.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION

The six members of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) for 2006 were Nancy E. Hill, PhD (chair); Lonnie Sherrod, PhD (chair-elect); John Lochman, PhD; Mario Hernandez, PhD; Barbara Fiese, PhD, and Karen Budd, PhD.

MEETINGS

The Committee held two formal meetings in the Washington, DC, area on April 7-9, 2006, and September 29 - October 1, 2006. In addition to these sessions, the Committee accomplished other business by e-mail exchange and conference call.

LIAISON FUNCTIONS

CYF maintains active monitor and liaison relationships with APA divisions, boards, committees and task forces. Division liaisons to CYF are active and involved in the work of the Committee. Liaisons who participated in one

or more meetings during 2006 included: Kathy S. Katz, PhD, Division 7; Karen Saywitz, PhD, Division 37; Margaret Feerick, PhD, Division 37 Section 1; Shelley Heaton, PhD, Division 40; James Bray, PhD, Division 43; Marilyn Erickson, PhD, Division 53; Brian Smedley, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest; Clark Campbell, PhD, Committee on Rural Health (Monitor); Jennifer Gibson, PhD, Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; and Diane J. Willis, PhD, American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Each CYF member is a monitor or liaison to several APA boards and committees. They review pertinent material and bring relevant issues to CYF's attention. In addition, CYF strives to comment appropriately on all crosscutting agenda items that have some pertinence to children, youth, and families to ensure that adequate and accurate consideration is devoted to those issues.

MISSION AND GOALS

CYF's mission is to further the central purpose of APA -- to advance psychology as a science and a profession and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare -- by specifically ensuring that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized. CYF's goals are to:

- Identify and disseminate information concerning the psychological status of children, youth, and families for psychologists, other professionals, policy makers, and the public;
- Offer consultation to relevant APA boards and committees responsible for psychologists who conduct research and provide services for children, youth, and families;
- Encourage psychological research on the factors that promote or inhibit the development of individual and family competence;
- Contribute to the formulation and support of policies that facilitate the optimal development of children and youth within families;
- Designate priorities for APA involvement in the issues affecting children, youth, and families including issues related to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability.

SUMMARY OF CYF 2006 ACTIVITIES

Diversity Training and Representation At the request of the Council of Representatives, the following information is provided on diversity training activities and membership. In all its efforts from Committee membership to policy statements, the Committee works diligently to ensure that diversity issues receive the Committee's full attention. For example, CYF's 2006 membership was diverse with respect to ethnicity (i.e., One African-American, One Hispanic-American, Four European-Americans) gender (three females and three males), and geographic location; the Committee solicits nominations from ethnic minority psychological associations to enhance the ethnic diversity of the candidate pool; and the Committee advocates for or develops publications, policies and programs that are appropriate with regard to age and developmental level, culture, ethnicity, language (Spanish and English language public information material), disability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Further, advocacy priorities established by the Committee pay special attention to issues uniquely important to those from diverse backgrounds. This commitment is reflected in Committee's Federal Advocacy Priority focused on diversity. In that priority, CYF calls for advocating for federal funds for research on the normative development of minority children, youth and families; funding to support training for psychologists to work with children, youth and families from diverse backgrounds in culturally sensitive ways; supporting and funding research based policies that promote the healthy development of children in all families, including those from married, unmarried, single parent, lesbian, gay and grandparent headed household; and for preserving and protecting the rights of and services to immigrant, migrant, and refugee children and youth and for funds for research and programs to serve these families; among others.

The Committee reviewed its strategic plan to ensure its consistency with the APA diversity goals. In addition, the Committee developed specific strategies to enhance the Committee's multicultural/diversity capabilities, reviewed the *Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists*, published in the *American Psychologist* in 2003. CYF set as a goal the identification and implementation of existing APA documents and policies that further APA's and the Committee's commitment to diversity. The Committee also committed to developing or to assisting in the development of new policies as needed.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The Committee supported the establishment of the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents and looks forward to reviewing their product.

Committee members participated in APA's Multicultural Leadership Workshop and developed a 5-part action plan for engaging and retaining members of color in the Association's activities.

The Committee continued ongoing activities and initiated new efforts in 2006 to fulfill its mission. The Committee's major activities are summarized below as they relate to each of their five goals.

I. Identify and Disseminate Information

Newsletter

CYF NEWS is the primary vehicle for communication of information about CYF activities and issues of concern. Two CYF members edit the newsletter. Drs. Fiese (Summer 2006) and Budd (Winter 2007) shared that responsibility in 2006. Copies of the newsletter are available on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/cyfnews.html>. The Committee also uses other APA vehicles to disseminate information to members (i.e., APA Monitor on Psychology, APA Division Dialogue) and public information pieces (i.e. Tips for Talking with Adolescents and Yes...It's Normal for Adolescents to... bookmarks in English and Spanish.)

2006 APA Convention

To mark the Committee's 20th anniversary as an APA committee, CYF presented a presidential symposium on the topic, "*Growing up with diversity: The role of psychology in strengthening families.*" This symposium was co-chaired by Drs. Hill and Sherrod and focused on the increased diversity in the United States of America of the last century; the importance of understanding the unique and interactive influences of ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, and community resources for understanding parenting, family dynamics and children's development in diverse contexts; and how diversity influences policies and programs. President Koocher was the discussant.

In addition, CYF member, Dr. Lochman, chaired a symposium titled "*Issues in the Dissemination of Empirically-Supported Interventions for Children and Adolescents.*"

APA staff planned a CYF 20th Anniversary reception for Friday, August 11th at the Convention. They developed an informational packet that reflected the 20-year history of CYF. The Committee received a Presidential Citation from President Gerald Koocher, PhD, in acknowledgement of their 20th Anniversary and for their efforts in carrying out their mission.

For the 2007 Convention, on behalf of CYF, member, Dr. Fiese, in collaboration with CWP, has proposed a symposium to BAPPI to reflect the theme *The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice*.

Conference Activities

CYF works through its members to involve the Association with other organizations in collaborative efforts to bring psychology's knowledge base to other professionals. Nancy E. Hill, PhD, took the lead in advancing an Interdisciplinary Conference on Family-School Relations. The conference focused on empirical research findings on the relationship between family involvement in schools and children's educational outcomes, and on factors that promote or inhibit the development of family and school relationships for families, schools and teachers. The conference took place in July, 2006, was hosted by Duke University, and was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Through the work of Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD and with the enthusiastic support of CYF, APA accepted the invitation of the Association of Family Conciliation Courts (AFCC) to be a collaborating organization for the AFCC's 43rd Annual Conference. APA members participated in conference research presentation and activities.

II. Provide Consultation:

Consultation was provided to a variety of APA boards, committees, task forces, and divisions through CYF liaison and monitor relationships to these groups.

Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)

At the request of BAPPI, the Committee forwarded recommendations for members of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status.

Other Consultations

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations to the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula, Report of the Task for on Sexualization of Girls, report of the Presidential Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice, Report of the Accreditation Summit Meeting; the report of the Task Force on the Impact of Elementary and Secondary School Zero Tolerance Policies; the Report of the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents, APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Divorce Proceedings, and the Report of the Task Force for Psychological Practice with Girls and Women. The Committee also discussed and made substantive recommendations related to the Presidential Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA and increasing membership. The CYF Chair also attended the Membership Summit.

The Committee made recommendations for the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula Working Group, and APA Presidential Task Force on Military Deployment Services for Youth, Families, and Service Members.

Dr. Hernandez, CYF Member, provided consultation to President Koocher on a response to the controversy surrounding the Judge Rotenberg Institute and its use of aversives to disrupt self-injurious behaviors among autistic patients.

III. Encourage Psychological Research andIV. Formulate Policy:

CYF's initiatives, listed below, encompass activities that concurrently address both of these important aspects of the Committee's responsibilities.

Unlicensed Residential Treatment Centers for Youth

Dr. Hernandez brought unlicensed residential treatment centers to the Committee's attention. There are a growing number of unlicensed residential treatment centers for juveniles. There have been reports that some of these unlicensed centers utilize questionable methods of discipline and treatment. Dr. Hernandez will lead the Committee in exploring possible recommendations to address this issue.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and Civic Engagement

The NCLB Act is up for reauthorization in 2007. The NCLB cuts across several CYF interests including civic engagement, parental involvement in education, and the lack of attention to nutrition and health. In collaboration with Annie Toro, JD, from the APA Policy Office, Dr. Sherrod will lead the Committee in developing recommendations for language in the reauthorization.

Inter-divisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health Care

The Committee continued to liaison with the Inter-divisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health. As part of its larger effort to advocate for children's mental health services, the Task Force submitted a draft proposal for a Wingspread Conference on providing quality mental health services to children, and developed talking points to use in advocacy visits with Members of Congress.

Updating Lesbian & Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists

CYF contributed to the document titled *Updating Lesbian & Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists* by identifying reviewers and collaborators with the appropriate expertise, and assisting with the document's refinement and editing. The document was released early in 2006.

Rural Children's Mental Health

At the request of the Council of Representatives, CYF gathered information and developed a report on APA's efforts related to rural children's mental health as articulated in Council New Business Item No. 58C: Rural Children's Mental Health Services. The CYF forwarded its report titled Report of APA Activities Focused on Rural Children's Mental Health to the Council of Representative.

Mental Health Interventions Targeted at Children in the Welfare/Child Protection System

Empirically supported treatments developed in research lab settings rarely include children (or their parents) who are wards of the state. There is also a disconnect between the research done in juvenile courts on families trying to regain custody of their children. This topic was brought to the committee by Dr. Budd. She will lead the committee in comparing a review of the scholarly literature with legislative initiatives to see where they intersect

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

and develop recommendations for further research, policies and practices pertaining to enhancing the mental health outcomes of children in protective custody. This topic will serve as the major theme of the Winter 2007 issue of CYF News.

Family Mealtimes and Obesity in Children

Family mealtime routines are related to childhood obesity. Obesity among children has increased substantially over recent years and is associated with a number of maladaptive outcomes for children. Moreover, childhood obesity is largely preventable. Dr. Fiese brought this to the Committee's attention and organized various reports on this topic for the Summer 2006 CYF Newsletter. Dr. Fiese will lead the Committee in the development of a set of CYF brochures on various aspects of childhood obesity and mealtimes.

Additional Topics

The Committee discussed other issues including corporal punishment, children's rights, civic engagement, dissemination of empirically supported interventions for children and adolescents, and multicultural education and training for psychologists.

V. Designate APA Priorities for Children, Youth, and Families

This goal permeates every aspect of CYF's work and is evident through the variety of consultation efforts, working groups and task forces described earlier. In recognition that CYF is particularly effective when its members have expertise to respond to contemporary events affecting children, youth, and families, the nominations statement for terms beginning in 2008 explicitly encourages applicants with such expertise, including (but not limited) to culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, and underserved populations; rural mental health; mental health disparities and promotion of healthy lifestyles for children, youth, and families.

Revised Legislative Priorities

After consultation with staff from the Public Policy Office (PPO), the Committee revised and reorganized the CYF legislative priorities to include priorities related to children's mental health, physical health, education, diversity, family support, and children's rights and civic engagement.

Conclusion

Different from most APA committees, CYF advocates for and provides service to a population that is not represented among the membership, nor capable of promoting its best interests without the assistance of others. CYF's strives to use psychological knowledge and practice to improve and enhance the lives of young people both as individuals, as well as within the family structure. The notion of public service truly underlies all of CYF's efforts.

CYF focuses APA's organizational efforts and capabilities on issues of critical social importance. During the past year, those efforts have encompassed numerous topics for which APA has provided assistance in the areas of education, information dissemination, training, and public policy recommendations. These contributions clearly enhance the reputation of the Association while at the same time delivering important public service. CYF members are proud of this service and confident that it has had a meaningful positive impact on the lives of many young people and families.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy E. Hill, PhD
2006 Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
January 10, 2007

